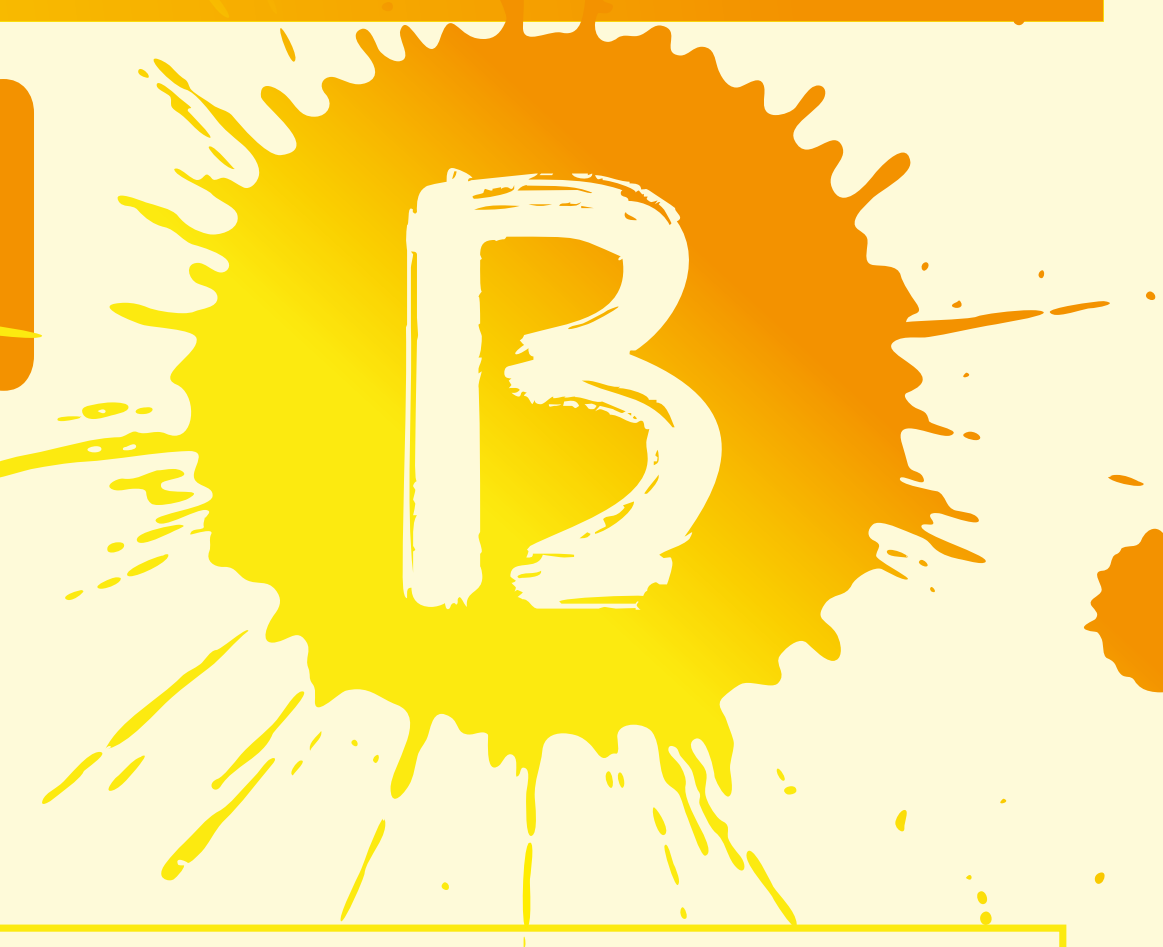


B Informed

Meningococcal in South Australia



Meningococcal B bacteria, often referred to as meningococci, can cause infections which may result in people becoming unwell very quickly and may lead to severe health complications and even death.

There are six different types of meningococcus that cause infection in humans.

80%

of cases in Australia are the Men B strain.

In South Australia
88%
of cases are the Men B strain.



Meningococcal disease can affect all age groups, but is most common in children under five years of age and in young adults, aged 15-24 years.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA has had the highest rate (per 100,000 population) of meningococcal disease (Men B) in Australia since 2012, with more cases in adolescents than infants.



50% of cases in 2016 were adolescents.

Over 2017 it is expected that 50,000 students in Years 10, 11 and 12 will receive the vaccine free of charge as part of a global impact study around herd immunity.

Nationally, the Men B vaccine is not currently available free of charge through the National Immunisation Program.

The study provides these students with free vaccinations and looks to measure whether the Men B vaccine can reduce the spread of the bacteria from person to person, demonstrating herd immunity in addition to individual protection.



The study, led by the University of Adelaide in collaboration with SA Health, has been approved by the Women's and Children's Health Network Human Research Ethics Committee.

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